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19 January 1967

NRO review(s) completed.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL STEAKLEY, JCS, JRC

SUBJECT: Phaseout of OXCART Program

The recent decision of the President to phase out the OXCART Program by January 1968 requires that appropriate planning and some necessary actions be started now. The NRO and CIA are in the process of planning the phaseout of the A-12 assets. In order to assure that an uninterrupted capability exists for manned reconnaissance of denied areas, it is necessary to coordinate and time-phase the decrease of A-12 operational capability with the increase of SR-71 capability and responsibility.

Dr. Flax has designated [] as the NRO representative for planning actions incident to the phaseout and [] as the responsible officer for matters of Air Force interfaces (see Attachment 1). The Director of Reconnaissance, CIA, has named [] as the principal CIA representative for the necessary planning and actions (see Attachment 2).

In view of Mr. Vance's January 17 memorandum to the Chairman, JCS (subject: SR-71 Plans), to insure close coordination among those offices directly involved in the planning and decision recommendations, I suggest that you designate an officer from JRC to serve as the JRC/JCS focal point. Your designee should work directly with Colonel [] as required,

1. Gen Steakley
2. SS-1
3. SS-8
4. []
5. RF
6. []
7. []

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in accomplishing the overall actions appropriate to the phasedown of OXCART and the assumption of the role of manned Mach 3 reconnaissance of denied areas, as required, by the JCS.

/s/

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2 Attachments

- 1.
- 2.

James T. Stewart
Major General, USAF
Director, NRO Staff

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